Project tiger in Karnataka

4712. SHRI K B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) when the Project Tiger was launched in Karnataka;

(b) the amount, so far, spent on the above project in Karnataka;

(c) the number of tigers in Bandipur tiger sanctuary;

(d) the steps taken to keep human pressure on the forest at a low level;

(e) the number of tigers killed by poachers during 2004 in Karnataka; and

(f) the steps taken to extend the Project Tiger to other forests of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Project Tiger was launched in Karnataka during 1973-74, at Bandipur.

(b) An amount of Rs. 17.5208 crores has been spent on the two tiger reserves (Bandipur-Nagarhoie & Bhadra) since the beginning of the project so far as reported by the State.

(c) The state has reported 82 tigers in the Bandipur Tiger Reserve during the last All India Tiger Estimation carried out during 2001-02.

(d) The following steps have been taken within the ambit of Project Tiger guidelines to reduce the human pressure on forests:

(i) Eco-development initiatives have been undertaken in the fringe villages to reduce resource dependency of local people on forests.

(ii) Funding support has been provided under Project Tiger for relocation of villages from the core area.

(iii) Anti poaching and anti smuggling camps have been established in interior and border areas of the Tiger Reserve to keep surveillance, complemented by wireless network.

(e) No poaching of tigers has been reported by the State during 2004.

(f) The Steering Committee of the Project Tiger, in its 37th meeting held on 23-01-2003, has recommended creation of the Dandeli-Anshi Sanctuary as one among the eight new Tiger Reserves. Action has been initiated on the proposals received from the state concerned to obtain the approval of the Central Government.